

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A multicolor image-forming material comprising:
an image-receiving sheet having an image-receiving layer; and
at least four thermal transfer sheets each including a support, a light-to-heat converting
layer and an image-forming layer, in which each of the thermal transfer sheets has a different
color,
wherein an image is formed by: superposing the image-forming layer in each of the at
least four thermal transfer sheets on the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving sheet, in
which the image-forming layer is opposed to the image-receiving layer; irradiating the image-
forming layer in each of the at least four thermal transfer sheets with a laser beam having an
output of 50mW or more at a linear velocity of 7 m/s or more; and transferring the irradiated area
of the image-forming layer onto the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving sheet,
each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets has a
ratio of an optical density (OD) to a layer thickness: OD/layer thickness (μm unit) of 0.57 or
more, and
wherein the transferred image has a resolution of 2,400 dpi or more,

the recording area of the multicolor image is a size of 515 mm or more multiplying 728 mm or more,

each of the image-forming layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets has a ratio of an optical density (OD) to a layer thickness: OD/layer thickness (μm unit) of 1.50 or more,

the image-forming layer is provided directly on the light-to-heat converting layer, and
the light-to-heat converting layer contains a matting agent having a particle size of 0.3 to 30 μm
~~The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 1,~~ wherein the at least four

thermal transfer sheets have four or more colors including yellow, magenta, cyan and black, and each of the at least four thermal transfer sheets has a different color, and each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets has a different optical density per the light-to-heat converting layer, in which each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets each having a different color has the same optical density per unit thickness of the light-to-heat converting layer and has a different layer thickness.

8. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets each having a different color is formed with the same coating solution.

9. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 7, wherein the light-to-heat converting layer in the black thermal transfer sheet has the lowest optical density in the at least four thermal transfer sheets.

10. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image-receiving sheet includes a support, and each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets each having a different color contains a matting agent in a different amount.

11. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets each having a different color has the same content of the matting agent per unit thickness of the light-to-heat converting layer and has a different layer thickness.

12. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets each having a different color is formed with the same coating solution.

13. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 10, wherein the light-to-heat converting layer in the black thermal transfer sheet has the lowest content of the matting agent in the at least four thermal transfer sheets.

14. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 7, wherein the light-to-heat converting layer has an optical density of from 0.80 to 1.49 at peak wavelength of the laser beam.

15. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 7, wherein the light-to-heat converting layer contains a light-to-heat converting agent and the light-to-heat converting agent is a compound other than carbon black, graphite and colloidal silver.

16. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the light-to-heat converting agent is a cyanine dye.

17. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~17~~, wherein the light-to-heat converting layer contains a light-to-heat converting material and a resin, and the half value width of the maximum absorbance at wavelength of 700 to 1,200 nm of the light-to-heat converting layer is 200 nm or less.

18. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 17, wherein the thermal transfer sheet includes an intermediate layer between the light-to-heat converting layer and the image-forming layer.

19. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 17, wherein the light-to-heat converting material is an infrared absorbing dye.

20. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 19, wherein the infrared absorbing dye is a cyanine dye.

21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~17~~, wherein each of the light-to-heat converting layer and the image-forming layer contains a water-insoluble resin and the recorded image has a resolution of 2,400 dpi or more.

23. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the resin in the light-to-heat converting layer is soluble in a hydrophobic solvent having an SP value of from 16 to 22.

24. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the resin in the image-forming layer is soluble in a nonaqueous solvent having an SP value of from 16 to 30.

25. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein a hydrophobic solvent is used for dissolving the resin when the light-to-heat converting layer is provided, and a nonaqueous solvent is used for solving the resin when the image-forming layer is provided.

26. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the light-to-heat converting material in the light-to-heat converting layer has the solubility of 1 weight% or less in a coating solvent for forming the image-forming layer.

27. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the resin in the light-to-heat converting layer has the solubility of 1 weight% or less in a coating solvent for forming the image-forming layer.

28. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the resin in the light-to-heat converting layer has the solubility of 0.1 weight% or more in the coating solvent for forming the light-to-heat converting layer.

29. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the light-to-heat converting material has the solubility of 0.1 weight% or more in the coating solvent for forming the light-to-heat converting layer.

30. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the light-to-heat converting material is an infrared absorbing dye.

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31. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the resin of the image-forming layer has the solubility of 0.1 weight% or more in the coating solvent for forming the image-forming layer.

32. (original): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 22, wherein the thermal transfer sheet includes an intermediate layer between the light-to-heat converting layer and the image-forming layer.

33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 71, wherein the transferred image has a resolution of 2,600 dpi or more.

35. (canceled).

36. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 71, wherein the recording area of the multicolor image is a size of 594 mm or more multiplying 841 mm or more.

37. (canceled).

38. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~71~~, wherein the OD/layer thickness (μm unit) of each of the image forming layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets is 1.80 or more.

39. (previously presented): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim 38, wherein the OD/layer thickness of each of the image-forming layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets (μm unit) is 2.50 or more.

40. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~71~~, wherein the image-forming layer in each of the at least four thermal transfer sheets and the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving sheet each has a contact angle with water of from 7.0 to 120.0°.

41. (currently amended): The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~71~~, wherein the ratio of an optical density (OD) of the image-forming layer in each of the at least four thermal transfer sheets to a thickness of the image-forming layer: OD/layer thickness (μm unit) is 1.80 or more and the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving sheet has a contact angle with water of 86° or less.

42. (currently amended): A method for manufacturing the multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~47~~, which comprises performing a successive coating.

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43-47. (canceled).